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May
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Drag

ISSUE



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Queen



Mia Fellow aka Christien

age 20-some. Being A Buddy's Beauty for the past 4 years, she remains fond of guys who do guys, boys who will be boys, and manly men. She is a candidate for Mz GayEdmonton 17. So watch out Edmonton she's one loud, proud queen who will ROCK YOUR WORLD! ▽



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QUEER News

Svend Robinson's Mistake

On April 15th, New Democrat, veteran Member of Parliament and the first openly gay MP Svend Robinson announced that he would be stepping back from politics for the foreseeable future. The shocking announcement came after Robinson acknowledged stealing a ring from an antique dealer on Good Friday. Robinson has been under a great deal of stress since a near-fatal accident in 1997, and stated that "something snapped", causing him to make the now infamous "mistake". Accompanied by his partner, Max Riverion, Robinson told reporters and supporters that he would be pursuing medical help to assist him through this difficult time and to deal with accumulated stress. People wishing to show their support or send best wishes can contact Robinson's Constituency Office at robins@parl.gc.ca or by phoning 604-299-4022.



from:www.queerpeace.ca

Youth Sentenced in Hate Crime

Also in Vancouver this month, a three-year prison term was handed down to a youth who admitted killing a gay man in Stanley Park. The youth (one of two who can't be identified because of their age) pled guilty to the beating death of Aaron Webster in November 2001. Two adults have also been charged. 21-year-old Ryan Cran and 22 year-old Danny Rao are in a preliminary hearing in provincial court on the same charges. The brutal death outraged Vancouver's

queer communities and led to thousands of people participating in protests and marches. (Source: www.globeandmail.com)

Victory for Transgender Rights

Transgendered people won a significant battle in Vermont when the City of Hardwick, Vermont agreed to award a Transgendered police officer \$90,000. The award came after Anthony Barreto-Neto sued the City for allowing him to be subjected to a continuous pattern of harassment. The harassment began shortly after Barreto-Neto began working in the Hardwick Municipal Police Department. Town officials discovered that during his previous employment – where he had won several awards and accolades for the quality of his work – Barreto-Neto had undergone female to male transition. Jennifer Levi of the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders noted the importance of this decision. "This is a ground-breaking decision for transgender people who have historically been excluded from many civil rights protections and continue to experience pervasive discrimination," she said. As part of the settlement Hardwick will also adopt a formal policy of nondiscrimination against transgender persons and train its employees on transgender issues.

(Source: www.365gay.com)

Scottish Cruisers Beware!

Cruisers in Scotland face a new roadblock to having sex in public washrooms. Local authorities are looking to install a new public toilet with weight sensors on the floor which are able to detect whether there is more than one person in the stall. The unit is produced by Healthmatic and is being considered by local authorities after a series of well-publicized cruising scandals. Garry Otten, of the Scottish



from:www.meninkit.com

Media Monitor (a gay campaigning group) notes that toilets have been ruled private spaces and that the proposed stalls simply feed into people's prejudices and "promote repressive attitudes." "The real problem is prudery, and Scotland has a big issue with that." (Sources: www.squirt.org)

Queer Parents, Better Parents?

Canwest News Service recently obtained documents compiled by the Federal Justice Department that argue children of gay and lesbian parents may have an advantage over other kids. The assessment concludes that loving and supportive homes are the best place for children, regardless of the sexual orientation of their parents. In fact, the report notes that gay fathers are more likely to exhibit authoritative parenting practices than their heterosexual peers. According to the report, "an authoritative style that provides clear limitations in addition to warmth, affection and support has been found to be associated with positive child adjustment."

(Source: www.canada.com) ▽



Queer News Items prepared by
Chris Samuel for **Gaywire**
on CJSR Fm 88.5. Check out
Gaywire every
Thursday from
6:00-7:00pm



Mink and Hedda from www.hedda.com

and homophobic mother in Jamie Babbit's "But I'm A Cheerleader" and in the upcoming John Waters release, "A Dirty Shame" about head injuries and sex-addicts in blue-collar Baltimore.

From: www.minkstole.com

Mini-Profile

Mink Stole

Born Nancy Stoll in Baltimore, MD, Mink Stole has made a career out of being one of John Waters' recurring movie freaks. Her roles have often been as disgusting and despicable as possible, which is why she is still a Waters' favorite. Although her first movie was 1966' 'Roman Candles', it was when she played Connie Marbles



opposite Divine in "Pink Flamingos" that Mink Stole's image was truly set. Although Mink's roles weren't always large, sometimes even just a few scenes, she has been in dozens of sick and twisted cult favorites, including "Female Trouble", "Desperate Living", and "Serial Mom". You can also catch Mink Stole in the role of concerned



by Jen Buxton
jbuxton@freshmagazine.ca

THE DRAG King & I

Quick! Name three Drag Kings from the Edmonton area! Are you stuck? If so, don't feel badly because you probably aren't alone. But I am happy to toss a few names out there that you might want to check out: Barian Deep, Gunz 'N Ammo, Bruce Lee (when he's around), and yours truly, Justin Licks. There is not a strong enough King presence in this city. But that is not at all to say there are not numerous talented bois that hit various local stages whenever the opportunity knocks. However, unlike the Queens, the often underdog Kings haven't quite mastered how to band together just yet. Yes joining the court (Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose) is an available option. But to really cultivate the culture and the talent of the Kingdom we need one key ingredient: **mentorship.**

One of the premier examples of how a little mentoring and a lot of camaraderie can transform the face of the Drag scene is the Kings of Vancouver. This relatively new edition to the Canadian queer scene is a Drag King tour de force with 6 fabulously diverse bois. The Kings of Vancouver consist of: Levi, Kyle, Heat, Daxx, Buttah, and last but not least Devin. You can take a closer look at each of their profiles among other delights on their website: www.kingsofvancouver.com.

Ask a room full of Drag Kings what defines a King, and you will likely get a multitude of responses. It is easy to say we are the opposite of Drag Queens, or that we impersonate men. The problem is that these definitions do not express the diversity that exists in the Drag world. From my experience most Kings take to the stage for the theatrical rush, gender expression, or political beliefs. I would never suggest that the way in which any one King identifies is representative of all Drag Kings. We are all unique, and I love that! However, I do feel strongly that it is important to note that for some, the world of Drag is never really mask at all, but more of an expression of a constantly androgynous or fluid gender expression and/or identity.

Devin Aire, the founder of Kings of Vancouver, is one of the many Kings out there that is not afraid to speak up about the complexity of gender, and the need to cultivate a strong Drag King scene in Canada. I had the privilege of picking Devin's brilliant gender queer brain, and this is what the man with the plan had to say:

How long have you been performing?

I have been performing Drag for over 3 years.

I love how you describe yourself on LJ (livejournal) as a "pansexual-gender-fucker-who likes wearing other peoples socks." Do you feel a lot of pressure from within the queer

community to define yourself within the gender binary? I know it's hard for me when people want to separate being a king with being trans, because sometimes the two go together.

Yes, I feel that society in general wants us to conform to the binary. It's really hard when you identify as a boi, who wants to be a mom. It's easier to say I am trans because its an umbrella term, but then people think that you are going to have sexual re-assignment surgery, which I am not. I feel like the binary gender system oppresses people, and makes many of us, whom have fluid gender, feel like we don't fit.

What inspired you to start up the Kings of Vancouver? (Kudos to you for doing that!) Do you think something like that would be feasible in redneck Alberta? Would you be willing at some point to help out with that?

The scene in Vancouver wasn't really very positive. Kings got the shaft end: such as not getting paid, but the Queens getting paid. There was no one really putting on shows that were worth seeing, and the quality was poor. It all really came out when I met Tobi. She had expressed interest in putting together really great shows. And I wanted to be in really great shows. Shows where you didn't get

screwed around. On that day Kings Of Vancouver was conceived. I think putting together a drag troupe anywhere is hard. it's A LOT of work. I think it's worth it though, giving people the space to perform is such a wonderful thing. I think that Alberta needs a Drag troupe, to promote diversity and challenge gender/sexuality stereotypes. And yes, I would love to help out in anyway possible.

I understand you have been nominated for a Vancouver Community Achievement award. Have you heard or do you have anymore information regarding that?

Yes, I was nominated by the community, and my mom, for the Xtra west Queer Hero (Drag king) 2003, and I won. It was a wonderful experience to be recognized and thanked for being an awesome Drag King and for adding something to the community. I have put my heart into Kings Of Vancouver, and to be honored in that way, was something I could have never asked for. Tobi, My mom, and sister were at the awards, and it just made the experience so memorable.

Do you feel that Drag Kings need to be separate from their Queen counter-parts to maintain autonomy?

I feel that Kings should have their own space. Mainly because Queens are fairly mainstream now. Queens are so prominent in the mainstream media, and Kings are almost never heard of. The fact that I have to explain what I do by explaining that I am the opposite of a Drag Queen to people shows this. But I do love a good Queen and King show.

Is drag more of a performance art, a political statement, or gender expression for you?

It's all those. I feel that Drag for me is a tool I can use to express and show people how I look at the world. Drag allows me to be creative, have fun and meet really amazing people.

What are some of your favourite artists to do drag numbers to?

Justin Timberlake. Something about a guy who can dance. Other than that I really don't have a specific artist. I try to re-invent myself everytime I go up, so no one really knows what you are about to do, but they know its going to be good, [because] you're doing it.

What advice do you have to all the closeted Kings who need that extra nudge to FINALLY hit the stage?

Just go out there and do it! Have fun! ▽



Devin Performing, courtesy of www.kingsofvancouver.com



The Kings of Vancouver doing what they do best: performing and having fun, courtesy of www.kingsofvancouver.com

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movie-
review

Pepper's Guide to... *Drag*...in the movies

by Pepper

A man in a dress is a tactic writers and directors have been using for years, to achieve comic relief, dramatic climax, or just to add a touch of glam. As always I'm going to take the less common path, but I will give snaps to the classics. Like "The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert" is a beautiful and hilarious portrayal of the world of drag, whereas in my opinion "To Wong Foo thanks for everything Julie Newmar", although a fun and funny flick, was just another attempt by Hollywood to ride on the surprising success of an indie film.

First off I must mention a movie that truly grasps the real sassy glamour of drag. "Wigstock" is a documentary on an outdoor festival held in New York. Its founder and director The Lady Bunny is no longer holding the event. So it's a good thing they caught one on tape. Anyone wanting to see a film with real D.Q.'s (Drag Queen) this is the one. There is a queen for every type here and them some, and the nice thing is you see drag through many different eyes. Fellow queens looking for ideas, pop this in. There's great music like Dee-lite and Crystal Waters, guest appearances from RuPaul to Alexis Arquette (front desk dick from "Threesome"). Ladies this flick has it all.



One great director was a big part of a certain D.Q.'s rise to stardom. John Waters had the balls to make some of the strangest indies of the late 70's, with the larger than life diva Divine. Starring in "Polyester", "Female Trouble", "Eat Your Makeup", "Multiple Maniacs" and the ever controversial film "Pink Flamingo", Divine's unique looks and wild personality fit right in with Waters perverse depictions of society. Don't worry if the freaky deeky flicks are not your bag. John Waters did make some more mainstream movies you may recognise like "Serial Mom", "Cecil B. DeMented", "Pecker", and my favorite "Hairspray" starring Divine and Ricki Lake. Taking a look at the early 60's when integration was the big scandal and teeny bopper dance shows were the biggest craze. You also see Divine without the dress playing a dual role as the T.V. station manager and as Ricki's mother.

"Divine's unique looks and wild personality fit right in with Waters perverse depictions of society"

Dustin Hoffman took a risk by throwing on heels, and found himself strutting towards Hollywood success. "Tootsie" is a classic story with a twist. Michael Dorsey (Dustin Hoffman) is an unemployed actor with not the best of reputations. He decides to create Dorothy Michaels and lands a role on a soap opera. Finding stardom and learning about oneself are the underlining morals of the plot but they're surrounded by hilarity and heart.

Taking any stereotype and plopping it into a new environment can be a great recipe for laughs, and "Sorority Boys" provides some real delicious hardy hars. Starring some T.V. hotties, Barry Watson (7th Heaven), Michael Rosenbaum (Smallville), and Harald Williams, this is the story of three beer drinking, womanising, party frat boys that are booted from the house after being framed. Trying to infiltrate the frat, the boys become ladies and the laughs don't stop. Being not the most feminine and graceful of creatures, they find friends and refuge in the sorority D.O.G. (enough said). Not the deepest of films but serves its purpose for giggles, heart warming discovery and the amusing awkward antics of a straight guy trying to work it.

As I mentioned guys in dresses has been around forever, so lets flash back. "Some Like it Hot" starring Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis, and a golden globe winning performance by Marilyn Monroe. This late fifties black and white gem was a crowning comedy success and probably paved the way for the use of Queens on screen. The story of two men running from the mob, decide to completely disguise themselves by switching sexes and joining Marilyn's all girl band. Proving funny is funny, this flick can get laughs in any era, and can be enjoyed by all. ▽



We are the AdVice Squad: a group of young anonymous professionals both qualified and eager to answer all of your life's problems. Send your questions to advice_squad@hotmail.com. Photos guarantee a reply. Anyone who takes this column too seriously and e-mails us to complain that we haven't taken the questions seriously, will be ignored. Seriously.

(From the www.freshmagazine.ca forum)

Dear Advice Squad,

Here's my problem. I'm 28, and for the past eight years, I have developed a good reputation for falling for straight women. As a lesbian, this is very upsetting and causes me a lot of undo heartache. I don't know if it is because the "type" of women I am usually attracted to are really feminine and girly and stuff, and not to be stereotypical, but a lot of straight women act like this. Don't get me wrong, I have come across some lesbians who act like this as well, but I just don't fall for them the same way. Right now, I am currently infatuated with three women, two of whom are straight, and one who is bisexual but engaged to a man. I guess what I am asking is why you think I keep doing this to myself?

Witty Kitty

Dear Witty Kitty,

The answer is simple - you want what you can't have. Don't worry. This happens to everyone. Unfortunately for you, in the Edmonton community there are relatively few lesbians who meet your criteria. Why don't you find someone who's personality you enjoy and do an "Extreme Homo Makeover" Rent Pretty Woman or My Fair Lady for inspiration. Give up on the straight women. Changing someone's appearance is one thing, changing who they are is impossible. (see also: Anne Heche)

Dear Advice Squad,

I have a problem. I'm 17 and I'm gay, but I haven't told anyone except a few of my friends because I live in a really conservative town. Anyway, I have a huge crush on a guy in my math class and I have no way of knowing if he's gay too. We've had several moments of eye contact where we just kind of confusedly stare at each other for a minute, but we have never spoken a word. He doesn't talk much and he doesn't appear to have many friends and I really want to talk to him, but there's no real way to go about it without it seeming weird- I don't want to freak him out! If I can't "have" him, I want to at least be his friend- he seems like a really nice guy from what I've observed. Do you have any advice on what I could possibly do? To at least somehow "break the ice"?

Shy and Desperate

Dear Shy and Desperate,

As a guy who secretly carried Barbies in the top compartment of my lunchbox where the Thermos is supposed to go, I know about taking risks in a small town. It's generally unsafe to come out in a small town high school where the student population is usually not enlightened. You say you would like to be friends with him, so why don't you start with that. You don't need to be a gay friend, or a straight friend, just a friend. If talk of female conquests doesn't enter the conversation, chances are you're barking up the right tree. If it feels right, try some subtle physical contact. You don't need to say "I'm gay." If he freaks out it is easier to pretend your actions were misinterpreted than taking back the words "I'm gay". Good luck ▽

MISS MONA'S

gardening

Water Sports In The Garden? Absolutely!

The fascination and desire for man to be around water has always been a part of us. Tranquility, relaxation and comfort are foremost after 9/11 and we have discovered it by including a water feature somewhere around the home.

A water feature is now mandatory for most gardeners, old and new alike, no matter where they live or their lifestyle. From indoor mini fountains, containers on the balcony to a full scale pond with stream and water falls, your choices are only limited by spatial requirements.

Balcony features are generally a container with a few plants and include a small fountain to provide the sound of running water to help drown out the noise of the city. These are inexpensive and may be kept indoors over the winter if you want to save the plants for next year. Water hyacinth, lettuce, lilies, rushes and papyrus are best suited for a container water garden situated in the sun. For the shaded feature use bogbean, marsh marigold, golden creeping jenny, or rushes.

Always read the plant tag for plant requirements.



Ponds can be anything to a small preformed ground insert with a fountain in the front yard to the back yard babbling brook with waterfall and fish. Always research to avoid problems such as gas and water lines, by-laws, pets and children or hire a professional.

A pond must be placed with at least 4 hours of direct sun. Most water plants and marginals (marginals grow around the edge in shallow water) need some sun. I couldn't possibly list the plants available so search the websites below. The garden centers finally stock a variety of water plants but go early as the plants are brought in for spring and generally not restocked.

One can install a pond usually in a weekend but if labor is not your thing there are companies that specialize in pond installations.

For more on water features, check the bookstores and the web and to get you started here a few links to follow:

Have fun darlings!

-Mona Moose

www.aquascapedesigns.com

www.pondsense.com

www.waterworksponds.net

www.greenlandgarden.com

www.watergarten.com

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review



George Michael - *Patience* (A&M/Sony Music UK)

by Sheldon L'henaff

Patience is the perfect title for George Michael's newest collection of songs. Mainly because this is his first full release of original songs since 1996's *Older*. Since then he's been caught with his pants down, came out of the closet, released comeback single "Outside" (complete with a video where the washroom turns into a disco and Michael in police gear) and most of all hasn't apologised for anything in between. While Michael has retained a lot of his trademark melancholy, *Patience* also exudes a sense of him having fun again musically. The title track as well as "My Mother Had a Brother", and "John and Elvis Are Dead" are true standard George Michael ballads, while "Amazing" (the first single), "American Angel" and "Please Send Me Someone" are proof that he still has the stuff to tug at any listener's heartstrings.

His finger on the pulse of dance/electronic music is very evident on *Patience* as well. "Precious Box" is a floaty, trance-y number while the sample laden "Flawless (Go To The City)" gets top marks as not only Michael's most fun song, but finally a song for the boys in the true spirit of being "...more than just some fucked up piece of ass..". "Freek! '04" and "Shoot the Dog" are both pre-album singles, which were just casually snuck on to the album. The former is Michael's strong commentary on the Blair governments' involvement on the Iraq war, while "Freek! '04" is a twisted hip-hop sample heavy reflection on pornography and sex. The latter seems to stick out like a sore thumb when it comes to the album as a whole, however there's still enough material to offset the imbalance.

If more than anything after a few years of inactivity, this should mark George Michael's return to music triumphantly. *Patience* is loaded with tons of gems, making this album definitely worth the wait. In short this is best paraphrased as Listen Without Prejudice Volume 2. ▽

review



Check out **Vertical Struts** 7" release show:

May 7 @Seedys 10314 104 St
May 8 @Sharktank 10249 97St

Vertical Struts - *Plans For Her/Blues From An Airplane* (Single) (Independent)

by Sheldon L'henaff

Edmonton's Vertical Struts are comprised of the duo of Trevor Anderson and Raymond Biesinger. With a healthy mix of D-I-Y, recycled dylan-esque lyrics, and a red 45 with attached lyric and interview sheet (!), they have unleashed the two songs "Plans For Her" and "Blues From An Airplane". The result is a gritty, honest sounding single which leaves the door wide open for growth. While both songs hardly clock in at less than 3 minutes, and they shy away from traditional verse - chorus - verse fare, "Plans For Her" comes out as the clear winner between the two songs. Both tracks invoke a lot of early punk spirit musically, while the lyrics are nothing too life changing.

While their best foot forward is one in a definite right direction, the main complaint about this single is that two songs at their respective lengths is not enough. But maybe then again by releasing the single in a 7" vinyl format, the groups' intentions include clever marketing. (After all how many of you own a 7" red vinyl single?) If "Plans For Her" is any indication as to where the Vertical Struts are going, there is a good chance Edmonton may be seeing it's next successful indie band.

Visit the Vertical Struts online at www.fifteen.ca for more show info and upcoming releases. ▽

review



Janet Jackson - *Damita Jo* (Virgin/EMI)

by Sheldon L'henaff

For whatever reason, Janet Jackson has this insatiable urge to be frank and upfront about her sexuality. It's not that listeners necessarily mind of course. I'm sure a lot of Canadian fans were asking the same question of "why didn't she pull 'em both out" during the Superbowl halftime show. So far that stunt hasn't hurt her album sales. While Janet's sexuality has been the focal point of the past three albums before this, she never seems to tire the subject out. Janet's been able to creatively push the envelope again with *Damita Jo*.

This time sees her collaborating not only with her creative partners Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, but also with some new faces as well. Hip-hop artist Kayne West, lends not only his production skills, but his vocals to "My Baby" as well as tasty "Strawberry Bounce". She pulls off an old school vibe in "R&B Junkie", and makes it swing on "I Want you". Even the very first single "Just a Little While" is a refreshing return, laden with a guitar groove and her saucy lyrics. Another standout track on *Damita Jo* includes "All Nite (Don't Stop)" which again layers smooth vocals over a funky melody which will be sure to ignite dancefloors.

Janet's managed to make a career out of being sexual without being shameful. *Damita Jo* is yet another strong musical statement, which will continue to ensure Ms. Jackson's popularity and longevity in her career for years to come. ▽



inherited appreciation

by Michael Asman



When Divine died suddenly of asphyxiation at forty-two, a great light went out.

It wasn't until moving to Key West that I met my first drag acquaintance. At a grubby, country and western bar called 'Saloon One', at around one in the morning, this messed-up creature in a disheveled Barbara Mandrell wig climbed onstage, drunk out of her mind and mutilated the words to "The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia," for the evening's entertainment. I was enthralled and rushed over to share admiration for her hard-core, the show-must-go-on spirit. D.D.T., plastered though she was, seemed upset by her sloppy performance. She made me promise to return next week and watch her lip sync "The Harper Valley PTA" perfectly.

Sober, D.D.T. kept her word and did Jeannie C. Riley proud. She rocked the room, redeeming herself with a clipped, puppetish grace, and we became bar friends. D.D.T. had quite the look happening: Amway chic, with a gash of firetruck red where lips should have been. I was new to the bar scene, and she took my edification seriously, often slurring warnings of who the sharks were in the dark Florida night. After her numbers, I'd provide all the unsolicited feedback she could handle, and though she pretended not to care, she always ate it up. I was obsessed by her contradictions. As David, a timid, middle-aged guy who worked in a liquor store, no one paid him the slightest attention. Come nightfall, the bawdy, in-your-face D.D.T., self-proclaimed 'Worst Drag Queen in the State', emerged as the star of the show.

Key West had a dark side to its drag scene. There were always stories of girls on the lam from creditors, but the real dirt happened when a local celebrity (with real fake tits!) who always performed the same Eartha Kitt number, was found dead in her bartender boyfriend's bathtub. Apparently, during one of her legendary cocaine binges, she suffocated herself with a plastic bag, reasons unknown. Hearing this didn't turn me off the scene though. What I'd thought was just some harmless glamour, was actually part of a complex psychological culture. There was a fearless quality to some of these artists, men dressing as women; something they were saying 'yes' to in life, something most gay men either suppress or ignore. The heights this surrender could be taken might prove tragic, but they were in it for the long haul.

"What I'd thought was just some harmless glamour, was actually part of a complex psychological culture"



In Need of the

When I was a kid, and my mother would put Neil Diamond on the 8-track or record player, I would don a dress, maybe a necklace or two if I felt fancy, and I would lip-sync and twirl the afternoon away. Sure, Mr. Diamond is a man - all man at that, grrr - and I was wearing a dress, but what I was doing certainly wasn't what other young males were doing. In Grade 2, when the other boys were wearing running shoes to school, I was sporting a pair of flashy plastic sandals, which clicked when I walked, that I insisted my mother buy me, from Woolco. In Grade 4 the girls in my class and I had a whole dance choreographed to Tiffany's "I Think We're Alone Now". Whether it was putting my voice singing on a tape recorder or walking around in my mother's pumps, nothing was immune from my thespian touch. Even the Mission Impossible theme song got my feet and hands moving (think spirit fingers at the beginning, ending with a climactic jump and turn at the end.) I loved to perform, for anyone. My name is Matthew Zee, and I could have been a Drag Queen.

My dreams of glamour and glitz were squashed after years of oppression and the feeling that boys just didn't do the things I did. I went to a private Christian school for 10 years of hell, while I learned being gay wasn't how to get into heaven. In grade 10, and at a public high school, I went into drama and I was quite excited about my acting debut. A few weeks into it a straight girl decided that I was the one to pick on, so every class she and others proceeded to do just that. Being gay, and in drama, was apparently not acceptable either so I dropped it and was forced into the only class that had any spots open - woodworking. My soft, moisturized hands were out of place in a room

It wasn't until coming to Edmonton that I actually dressed in drag and lip-synched a song of my own. It was for some bar event, and Twiggy and Ida, local icons, were neighbors at the time so it seemed kooky and fun. The experience proved most interesting, but I discovered some of the major downsides of the drag uniform - most people treat you like a real freak, and while there may be a mystique happening, drag queens have complex sex lives. Few gay men want to take home another guy in makeup and heels, outside of the fetish "trannyfucker" crowd. It's a fact bemoaned often in their world, and the judgments leveled against queens have been around for years. Some people have no qualms sharing their disgust.

Perhaps this interest in drag is genetic. My father has seen the movie 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch' enough times to earn him one of those blond foam tribute wigs, and he's going strong. I think my dad identifies with the drag spirit - don't take shit from anybody, and follow the dream no matter what. Drag queens have the guts to put it out there, and take the flack. If they were to disappear, the scene would never replace the dedicated energy and heart they bring to the party. They're around to preserve the timeless joy of wiggling out. ▽

Queens

by Matthew Zee



full of macho males, and we certainly weren't working on any wood I had interest in. After high school, and finally 18, I went out to straight bars full of boys who did girls, and girls who did boys. I was almost 19 when I went to my first gay bar.

By that time my mother's necklaces were more out of style than they had been 10 years earlier, Neil Diamond wasn't the sex-god he once was, and Tiffany must have gone celibate because she didn't sing about being alone with a guy anymore, only to tumble to the ground. Times were different and the entertainer inside of me was buried below years and layers of torment, at the hands of heterosexuals. But at the gay bar, I saw a person that was only buried under layers of make-up. He had one arm open to hug you and the other holding a beer. He was wearing a wig, a dress, high heels and he didn't seem to give a shit about heterosexual oppression. He was, and is, The Drag Queen.

"Drag queens sacrifice time, body hair, and sometimes the ability to breathe just to be who they are"

Why did I not follow down that yellow brick road to gay performing? I think it is courage. M. McLughlin once said that "courage can't see around corners but goes around them anyway". It is quitting your job, and becoming a painter. It is telling someone that you love them for the first time, and actually meaning it. It is, I believe, living in Edmonton Alberta, getting in drag, leaving your house and turning the corner onto

Jasper Avenue.

We live in a city and province in which being a homosexual is okay on paper, but not always in practice. Being gay is fine as long as our hetero friends don't have to see it, or be aware that it is going on. We aren't breaking the law by liking the same sex, it just sometimes takes courage. A trait many drag queens have in spades.

Drag queens sacrifice time, body hair, and sometimes the ability to breathe just to be who they are. They are loud, so that the rest of us don't always have to be. They are the mermaids on the front of the ship called "Gay". (So, does that make them sea men?) It is irrelevant if you even like drag queens. Some say they are too catty, too gay, and too in your face. But that is the very reason we need them. Because for every drag queen that straps on his heels, who makes no apologies and is in your face, there are dozens of homos that hide and feel sorry for merely being what they are. Drag queens are here to remind us of how far we have come, and how far we need to go. They remind us that we all have a corner to go around, which so few of us are brave enough to do. ▽



fresh

By the Bi

"You are Gay or You are Straight"



Arron Kardolus
bythebi@hotmail.com

Those words were published last month and circulated in Edmonton's GLBT community. The article was both anti-B and anti-T (not to mention excluding the L's rights to identify themselves as Lesbians).

The article states that 'gay' and 'lesbian' identify sexual orientation, who you prefer either sexually or emotionally. That's exactly the point. Bisexuals cannot be asked to use a gay, lesbian, or straight label. Gay, lesbian, or straight is not who we are. Just as gay men, lesbians, and straight people have the 'right' to use a label that describes their sexual identity, so do bisexuals. We are neither gay nor straight. We are bisexual. That's who we are. That's our label.

Now let's move on to the most offensive part of the article, shall we? C'mon kids, hop on the discrimination roller coaster and let's go for a ride...

The article states that bisexuals should call [an Edmonton 'community' clinical social worker]. I'm not sure how she feels about being used in such a blatant expression of biphobia and good ol' Albertan redneckism, so I won't speak on her behalf. What I will say is that I am personally tired of this reverse-oppression. Someone who is a part of an oppressed group should be more cognizant of other oppressed groups, one would think. Just because there are more gay 'rights' now than in the past and

"What I will say is that I am personally tired of this reverse-oppression."

general homophobia has decreased to some degree, does not mean that hatred, misunderstanding, and discrimination should be turned on to someone else. Gay men and lesbians scream "homophobia" and "ignorance" when a heterosexual implies that being gay-oriented is cause for psychological intervention. What the hell makes it okay to say it about bisexuals??

I see it as nothing different than grappling for a place in the pack. Like dogs, determining their pecking order in their pack by aggression and dominance, or submission. This attitude is an attempt to 'diminish' bisexuals in order to improve someone else's social position in the pecking order.

Let's not 'submit'. Let's not allow ourselves to be mistreated or discriminated against. The time is now. Bisexuals, gay men, and lesbians need to stand together in the fight for justice and human rights. We are asking for the same ones: to not be discriminated against on the basis of our sexual orientation; to have the right to marry someone of the same gender if we are so inclined.

What is this need to be 'better than', to exclude, to mud-sling? What about the power of solidarity, of a strong and unified front? A person who experiences oppression often becomes violent or hateful toward the oppressor. We call that discrimination too. But the oppressed can instead

choose to unite with other oppressed groups to diminish all forms of oppression and discrimination. It takes courage to stand alongside other oppressed groups and fight for the common good, for what is right and just. When we turn on other oppressed

groups we have BECOME the oppressor.

Bisexuals, please, I'm begging you. Be out. Be proud. Be visible. Educate.

Bisexuality is real. It DOES NOT need 'correction' by counselling just as homosexuality does not.

"It is how we are born, deal with it." ▽

Order in the Court!

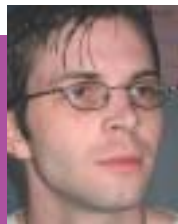
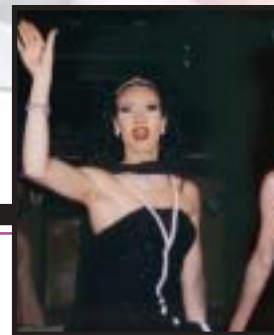


No drag-themed issue would be complete without a discussion of the International Court System (ICS), and specifically the Edmonton Chapter, the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose (ISCWR). You might have heard of the Court, or of the Emperor and Empress. Likely you wonder what the whole thing is all about. This article will hopefully help explain that, as well as telling you why people would become involved to the extent that an Emperor or Empress do. For more information, you can visit the website for the ICS at <http://www.impcourt.org> or the website for the ISCWR at <http://www.geocities.com/wildrose-court>. You can also attend a meeting of the ISCWR the last Wednesday of every month, at 8:30, at the Garage Burger Bar, located at 10244 106 St.

The Courts are individual social and community service organizations bound together in shared structure, policies and goals. When the Court System originated in San Francisco in 1965, it was intended mainly for "camp" fun. From that beginning the titles of "Emperor & Empress, Prince & Princess", and so forth were created, as was the major

annual gala function: Coronation. The Court System is truly international. With courts throughout the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, and now in the United Kingdom, each court is in essence, a chapter of the International Organization. The primary goals of Court representatives are: to further relationships with businesses and organizations within their local communities, to hold functions and fundraisers to benefit the communities, and to help those in the community who are in need of assistance.

The ISCWR has been in existence since 1976. It is the second-oldest Canadian court, just after Vancouver. Many thousands of dollars have been raised in the 28 years since the ISCWR came into being. The ISCWR's "realm" is defined as all of Northern Alberta, which is everything from Red Deer north. Everything south of Red Deer is the "realm" of the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Chinook Arch (ISCCA), which operates out of Calgary. The ISCCA had their annual Coronation on April 17, where their monarchs, Emperor 27 Marty Mojo Stevens and Co-Empresses 27 Bianca LaBouche and Brandy Bishop-Towers stepped down as Calgary's representatives, and the new Monarchs, Erika Devine and Alexander de Knight, were elected. The ISCWR has their Coronation on June 5, and that night, Edmonton Monarchs,



fresh

Neurosis

Volunteering's a Drag

by Rob Browatzke
rbrowatzke@freshmagazine.ca

a pre-emptive apology. Though it may sound it at times, I have no intention or desire for this article to come off as age-ist. Anything that seems age-ist is a matter of perception, not of years, and I think by the end, it will become clear what I mean.

This article, being in the Drag issue, was to be a bit of a rant on the ISCWR, Edmonton's 'drag queen organization', my role with that group, and some of the problems I've perceived with it. However, as I thought about what I wanted to say, I realized that my major issue is not specific to the Court, but can be applied to so many community groups, likely straight as well as gay. Community apathy would of course have been the biggest problem to address. Any non-profit group has had to struggle

I want to start this month's neurosis off with

against a lack of visible support, whether in dollars or volunteer hours, for the cause they're promoting/advocating. While I will touch on that a bit more, that still isn't the major issue I feel that faces Edmonton's GLBT community, and the social/support/charitable organizations within it.

The problem seems to be that a number of these orgs are going through routine evolutionary change. In and of itself, that isn't a big deal. The problem is that the transient nature of community group boards and volunteer bases isn't always as transient as it seems. Take for example, the ISCWR. After 28 years, there are still people involved who have been around since Day One. Over 28 years, an organization is bound to pick up a large group of people who have been instrumentally involved, in one way or another, for however long. Those people have their notions of how things work, how they've worked in the past, why change is bad, etc. The problem comes when they aren't willing to participate, other than by complaining and rejecting. Innovative ideas put forward can be turned down, because "that isn't the way this organization operates" and 'we've never done things



Empress 28 Oprah and Emperor Regent Rob Bigonion, will step down (a Regent means that no Emperor was elected at the last Coronation so a past Monarch stepped in to fill that role for the year). There is one candidate for Empress this year, Sticky Vicky, and no candidate for Emperor, so there will likely be a Regent next year as well.

People become involved with the Court for many reasons, but the biggest and most common reason is the desire to give back to the community and to raise money for various charities. All the money that the Court raises goes towards those causes. It does not go to the people involved in any way, drinks or dresses or travel dollars. All the expenses associated with being a Monarch come out of that person's own pocket, and when that means several Court events per month, as well as other social appearance, plus traveling to other chapters for events, it can get quite costly. Still, the people elected as Monarchs are willing to do this because they recognize the ISCWR and the Court system are worthy of their time, money, and support.

That support does not just come from drag queens and kings either. There is room for anyone in an organization like the ISCWR. To have a successful year, more people than drag queens



are needed. Anyone and everyone is welcome to help sell 50-50 tickets, perform at shows, plan and promote events, etc. The only requirement for involvement as a volunteer, on any level, is the desire and willingness to put in some work to help raise money for a good cause.

Every ICS chapter does different things to raise money, based on the size of the city and what works for that community. The ISCWR raises money in many ways other than traditional drag shows. Oprah and Rob, with the help of many others, held several 50-50 draws, prize box raffles, and weekly bingo nights. The production of Chicago, which ran in March, was also a major fundraiser. Every year the new monarchs select a charity to raise money for, and this year's charity is the Alberta Foundation for Diabetes Research. The ISCWR also raises money for the John M. Kerr Memorial Scholarship Fund; two scholarships will be given away this year at Coronation.

Be sure to attend Coronation this year. It is an evening of protocol, which people not involved with the ISCWR may not appreciate, but is also a major annual community event, and the perfect opportunity to dress up in your finest for an evening of glamour and glitz, as well as a lot of fun. ▽



like that in the past so why should we now?" Rather than risk change, it seems easier for some people to say that the organization should fold: if the old ways don't work, it's better to fold than adapt. That isn't just a problem with the Court; it also surfaced very clearly at the GLCCE AGM, as well as at some of the meetings since.

No one can deny that experience brings wisdom. By doing, you learn. However, there is another very realistic and important way to learn: through the doing of others. There seem to be a very prevalent generation gap in the inner circles of some of our city's community groups, like the Court, like GLCCE. The people with the energy, the excitement, the willingness to put in time and effort to make an organization succeed are scared away or denied their chance to participate. Comments like "flaky twink" or "naïve little chicken" demonstrate how some people aren't open to embracing fresh blood and fresh ideas, simply because they're coming from people not as experienced. Rather than using their own experience to

"In a community that prides itself on its diversity, that diversity should be real in practice, not just in theory"

guide or teach, it becomes easier to reject outright. A very similar situation is occurring with the Trans community, a group that has been on the fringe, if not excluded completely, from the inner workings of our orgs. Comments like "trans people aren't gay" or "trans people should have their own orgs" demonstrate that same close-mindedness. A close-mindedness that all queer people should be fundamentally opposed to.

In a community that prides itself on its diversity, that diversity should be real in practice, not just in theory. In a community whose struggle has gone back for decades, there are leaders with sage advice and hard-learned wisdom to impart, but that implies a willingness to teach. Without that willingness, without that openness, this could become a community whose future Co-Chairs and Emperresses and Mr. Leathers and Leaders of all sorts will have to learn the hard way all over again, simply because by the time they stop being "too young", it may already be too late. ▽

Report from the Interim Board of Directors, GLCCE

by Kathy Da Silva: Interim Co-Chair, GLCCE

As most of us know, the membership of GLCCE voted at their March AGM to dissolve the society and close the community center on July 31, 2004. Membership also established an interim board to meet with the community to establish a plan for a center/organization to replace GLCCE on August 1, 2004. The interim board has met 8 times over the past month met with over 45 members of the LGBT community at Edmonton City Hall on Monday, April 12, for a Town Hall Presentation and discussion. The board presented an ambitious conceptual business plan which was put together after input from members of the community via a meeting with the advisory group, input from the general membership of GLCCE, and research carried out by the board.

The vision for this plan is to provide a Multifunctional Resource Centre designed to house essential services related to health, education, human service and social needs of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual) community and their families, friends and allies in Edmonton.

The goal for this plan is to integrate LGBT self-governance with supports from various levels of government along with guidance from existing corporate and human services sector leaders, to most efficiently achieve objectives to provide quality services to its identified minority (>60,000) community and the greater Edmonton community at large.

The plan involves the establishment of one umbrella organization whose responsibilities are to oversee the functioning of 4 corporations, each of these addressing specific needs identified as important by our community. The working name suggested by the board for the umbrella organization as the planning proceeds is Pride Centre of Edmonton.

Pride Health and Human Services Clinic, Pride Education and Career Services, Pride Cultural Services and Pride, the Charity are the working titles of the 4 corporations that the board would like to establish to address the specific needs identified as significant to the community.

A brief overview of the purpose for each corporation follows:

- 1. Pride Health and Human Services Clinic:** A facility staffed by MD's, Psychiatrist, RN's, Clinical Psychologist, Social Worker, other Allied Health Professionals and medical receptionists to meet the professional health needs of the LGBT community and there families to be co-supported by volunteer run self-help groups, peer-counselling, focus groups and mentoring programs as appropriate (many are which currently in place and functioning well in the diverse subgroups of the LGBT community).
- 2. Pride Education and Career Services:** Continuing and expanding current educational programs and events related to LGBT issues in classrooms, campuses, religious institutions, in the workplace and community. Job readiness and mentorship programs will be more fully developed. The current LGBT Resource Library will continue to expand and an art gallery/cultural archives will be developed. Science and research projects will be housed in the education wing.
- 3. Pride Cultural Services:** Designed to incorporate long-term financial stability for the overall organization and house under one roof retail and recreational services identified as important to Edmonton LGBT individuals.
- 4. Pride, the Charity:** This is the fundraising vehicle, stimulating and motivating through charitable events and campaigns to bring awareness to the community at large and finance programs in house, providing donors with tax receipts.

Yes, this is an ambitious plan! It is not set in stone. Consultation will continue. If you would like to be kept up to date with developments please stay in touch with the GLCCE web site at <http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce/> This site can be accessed through any search engine by simply typing in glcce. ▽



Calendar of Events

Edmonton's GLBT History Display June 17- 26 2004

Pride Awards Friday, June 18, 2004

Pride Parade Saturday, June 19
Including Beer Gardens, On Stage
Entertainment, Childrens Activities,
ERBA Business Fair

2004 Unity Dance coordinated by
Womospace Saturday

Edmonton Vocal Minority Concert June 20

Acts of Pride, June 24
Queer Theatre Festival and the Pride
Marketplace (interested in bringing a production
to stage: contact Pride)

2004 Pride Dance June 26
at the Polish Hall

June 27
Edmonton's Centennial Pancake
sponsored by The Big Fresh
Birthday Brunch & Penny Carnival

**Pride Week
2004 will be
June 18 - 27!**
Celebrating
Edmonton's Centennial
& Showcasing
Edmonton's LGBT
History

Volunteers Needed Don't miss the chance to be a part of it! Support your favorite organization! Email Lance: volunteers@prideedmonton.org Ad Rates for the pride pullout in Vue Magazine Now available: ads@prideedmonton.org

Nominate someone for a Pride Award awards@prideedmonton.org

Want a table at the ERBA Business Fair? Contact Neil at nchamney@telusplanet.net OR Bill at 422-6207

Calling Queer Artists: Acts of Pride A Queer Evening of Theatre, Dance and Prose. Pieces must have limited tech and simple set design. Deadline for submission is May 15. Contact Troy Funk at actsofpride@prideedmonton.org

Next General Meeting is June 9 at 7 PM at GLCCE- #45-9912 106 St.



Host Hotel



VUEWEEKLY



▼ www.prideedmonton.org ▼

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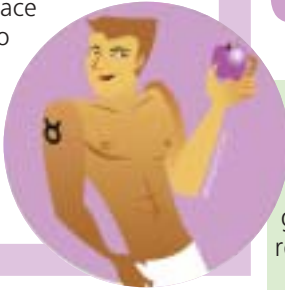
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DOWN
UNDER
GAY MEN'S BATH HOUSE

Taurus April 20 - May 20
At first you were afraid, You were petrified. Kept thinking how you could never live without him/her by your side. Well, its time to face that fear if you want to survive this month. Change the locks around the 20th and don't lay down and die. You'll thank yourself later.



Gemini May 21 - June 21
You will meet the love of your life but as one of you will be in drag at the time, neither of you will know it.

Cancer June 22 - July 22
That crush you've been harbouring will confess similar feelings to you. Move fast and don't drag it out

Leo July 23 - Aug 22
A drag king will teach you how to fight. Better buy him a drink for his efforts, unless you want to learn the hard way.

Queer-o-Scopes

The **GAYEST** horoscopes in the world

by the fresh staff

Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22
Friends or family will force you to do drag with disastrous results. Do it anyway, their guilt may provide you with monetary returns.

Libra Sept 23 - Oct 23
While watching a drag show, a new business opportunity will present itself, if you can think outside the box.

Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 21
Donations made to worthy causes this month will come back to you tenfold. Remember this when the hat or high heel gets passed.

Sagittarius Nov 22 - Dec 24
A mistaken gender identity will cause you heartache and financial hardship but may land you a role on a (Canadian) reality show. Go for it!

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19
Don't miss a chance for self-improvement. Those new pumps might be just what you're looking for.

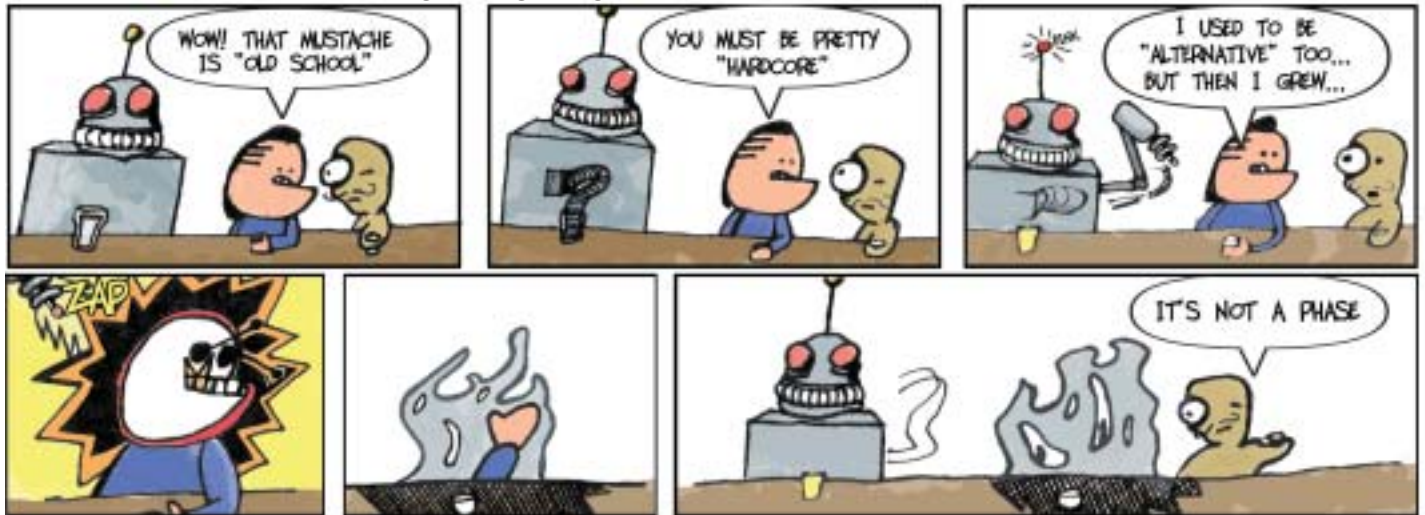
Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 18
A family secret will surface. Careful its about you. Oh, yes, they all know your dirty little secret. But don't hide it, flaunt it. Oh, and buy lottery tickets, you'll need them.

Pisces Feb 19 - March 20
A financial windfall will occur. Sadly, it has nothing to do with you. Cheer up, those shoes you covet will go on sale and you will be at peace.

Aries March 21 - April 19
Don't mix spots with stripes or real fur with faux-fur and you will have a fabulous month.



ROBOTIC DESSERTS BY KIERON RHYS LILLO



QUEERLY MISTAKEN BY MICHAEL ANNE



A FRESH APPROACH FOR YOUTH FACING HOMOPHOBIA

BY THE OUT IS IN PROJECT

Youth in Edmonton are becoming increasingly involved with a new and innovative project designed to help them learn

proactive and creative ways to address homophobia and the silence that surrounds lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, and queer (LGBTQ) issues in Edmonton schools. The Out Is In Project is a new university-community network funded by the Department of Justice Canada that is designed to help build the capacity and resiliency of LGBTQ and allied youth. B. R., a grade twelve Catholic high school student, describes his school experiences and participation in the Out Is In Project this way, "I feel like people put me into this file folder by stereotyping me. I want to burst out and show my pride. With each day, homophobia lingers in high school and gay and trans youth feel trapped. It feels so good to connect with other people."

In co-operation with Youth Understanding Youth, the Diversity Conferences of Alberta Society (DCAS) and other community-based organizations, Out Is In has held workshops involving dozens of youth using various arts-based activities. For example, by using social change theatre techniques, youth explore how to state their beliefs and role-play solutions to homophobic jokes and comments they encounter in school.

Out Is In focuses on peer-to-peer education that helps to nurture and build a sense of youth resilience and increased self-esteem. In this approach, youth participants speak candidly to the challenges they face, and on the resources and sources of support they need to overcome these challenges. J. L., a grade twelve student states, "Even though Vic [Comp] is less homophobic, the world isn't, and as an overall issue, homophobia has to be dealt within school and in the community."

In workshops and arts projects, participants as young as eleven have drawn and written about what it's like to address a

pervasive silence and taunts around LGBTQ issues in their schools. Most youth participants do not consider themselves to be artists or writers, but are supported in exploring the possibilities of creative forms of expression.

Currently, Out Is In is developing a public exhibition of art and writing related to homophobia and LGBTQ issues in Edmonton schools. For this exhibition, youth are transforming a bank of lockers, donated by an Edmonton junior high school, into an arts-based installation. Youth decorate the outside of the lockers to show how the world perceives them and then they decorate the inside of the lockers to reveal their true selves. T. J., a University student, describes his involvement in the project, "This locker project gave me a voice. I got to express the transition, to give a voice to who I was then, to that voiceless person who couldn't articulate what was going on for himself. I got to reach out to him."

During the upcoming spring and summer months, Out Is In is planning a series of activities, which include a "Spoken Word" performance workshop, learning the basics of radio production, and a September art exhibition at Café Mosaics on Whyte avenue.

Are you interested in fighting homophobia through art and education? The Out Is In Project invites all interested youth who are under twenty-five years of age to participate. Please contact Kristy or Lynn to find out how you can become involved.

"It's here I feel most free. You get exhausted hiding yourself. It's a huge drain. Here people understand you." - T. J.

Come out, express yourself, and have fun! ▽

Email: outisin@ualberta.ca Phone: 492-0767
Web: www.ualberta.ca/~outisin

Upcoming arts-based events with The Out Is In Project

Ongoing:

All youth are welcome to take part in locker decorating and other creative events.

May 16

Safe Schools for Every Child - An interactive workshop for parents and kids in LGBTQ families who want to share their experiences and learn from others about creating supportive and inclusive school environments for all students and parents.

Pride Week 2004

The Ideal School Project - Come out and learn more about the experiences of LGBTQ youth in schools. Add your own story and let schools know that there are youth dealing with homophobia in every school.



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DOWN UNDER
GAY MEN'S BATH HOUSE

If You Want It Done Right...

Through the QUEER View Mirror by Chris Samuel

"One thing I wanted to bring back to rock 'n' roll was the knowledge that you invent yourself. That's why I changed my name, why I did all the clothing style things, haircut, everything. . . . That is the ultimate message of the New Wave: if you just amass the courage that is necessary, you can completely invent yourself. You can be your own hero, and once everybody is their own hero, then everybody is gonna be able to communicate with each other on a real basis rather than a hand-me-down set of societal standards."

-Richard Hell

Over the next couple of months I am going to check out a core punk ethic - DIY - and how DIY can apply to queer lives. This month I'm going to explore some background of the DIY ethic with future columns giving some specific examples of how you can become a DIY god/dess and offering some resources to get you started.

For the uninitiated, DIY stands for 'do it yourself'. In the world of DIY, if you want, need, or get off on something, then you take care of it yourself. DIY has roots in the anti-authoritarian impulse that punks have elevated beyond a musical style into a way of life. Disillusioned and frustrated, punks reject the belief that being a musician means you need a major record label, a big following or even a significant amount of talent in order to make yourself heard. In punk, form is not only replaced by content; its ass is kicked out the door. Punks don't need permission to let you know what pisses them off; they just need the courage to make some noise.

This DIY attitude toward music quickly spread to other corners of punk life. Folks began to ask themselves, why shouldn't they build their lives in the image they wanted? What creativity, what independence do you forfeit by letting someone else create music, fashion, a scene, whatever,

for you? More cynically, people began to ask what other people gain by doing stuff for you. Profit? Control?

Self-creation is, of course, nothing new for queers. Our own DIY ethic has origins in every queer kid that ever got the boot from their family and had to build a new family in the gay/lesbian community. We do it when we work on emotionally intimate relationships without having had role models to teach us where to start.

Now, there are queer radicals out there, such as myself, who fear that the relentless struggle for assimilation means that we may lose more than we gain. Some fear that we'll lose our cultural uniqueness. Some fear that assimilation will take the edge off our creativity and reduce us to creating bland, Rockwell-style depictions of the world around us.

I'm afraid that we will lose - and are already losing - our DIY spirit. Pride Week celebrations are a prime example of this trend.

The Pride Committee is struggling to find volunteers and sponsors. You think someone else is going to create Pride Week for you? Sure, there are people who are busting ass to create the best possible celebration (and the line-up is already stellar), but it loses meaning if you show up for the parties without doing any of the work.

And just to put my DIY where my mouth is, I've decided to break my tradition of getting out of town when Pride Week starts up. I've felt Pride doesn't always reflect who

I am, so with the help of my partner I'm going to create a

Pride event that does. On June 22nd watch out for a night of punk rock, subversive politics and hardcore fun. I hope people will get something out of the party, and if not... who cares? I'm doing it for myself.

If you're interested in getting involved with the Punk Pride night contact me at rebeltoy666@yahoo.ca. Otherwise, get out there and do something for yourself. You'll be happier for it. ▽



Scenes part 2

The first part of a scene is setup. Usually this involves getting everything you will need laid out beforehand & have any unusual items nearby in case they are needed. IE: if you're playing with needles you'll need alcohol or peroxide, gauze, bandages, medical scissors, etc. Make sure you have any safety equipment/items on hand you'll need too. So if we're doing mummification with saran wrap, have medical scissors handy, or if you're doing fireplay have damn towels ready just in case something goes wrong. After this all done we can play.

"Make sure you have any safety equipment/items on hand you'll need too."

Play in this context is used to mean getting together & having some form of consensual S/M or D/s scene happen. When you play there are always risks. So you must learn to minimize those risks by knowing your partner & your area of interest (IE: spanking, flogging, wax play) very well so as to know how far you can go, what is safe and what is not. At this point you should know what you want to do with your play time. Some Dominants rigidly structure their scenes

and follow a sort of mental or literal script; others have a vague idea of what they want to accomplish in their scenes or just a vague idea of how to structure it; most people fall somewhere in the middle of those two extremes. Whichever way you decide to do your scenes is a personal decision and will grow & change as you gain experience in your play time.

The next step in a scene is the middle point. This is the point usually where people will take a break and slow down or stop altogether for a minute. Lord knows I've taken bathroom breaks mid-scene more than once. Its OK to do so and it gives the Dominant time to relax for a minute or cool down a bit if they've been doing a physically taxing scene like a heavy flogging. The subs get a break too and when they come back are usually a little less sensitive & more relaxed again. Resume your previous activities or switch gears if you wish. I counsel to not make breaks to long or you may find it difficult to get back into things again



by Heather Levie

The end of a scene is the part most submissives/bottoms love the best: aftercare. This is the point where after all the floggings done, the wax peeled off & your submissive is nice & euphorically high on endorphins, that you wrap them in a blanket & snuggle with them. You whisper sweet nothings into their ear & assure them they did really well, withstood a lot of pain or just hold them. Lots of Dominants need this time to mentally unwind, and physically let their bodies rest.

The submissives need it to unwind, & relax their bodies as they come down from their emotional high. If you can do so, wrap your play partner in a comforter, blanket or robe that is warm & dry. The reason being when they are coming down from their adrenaline rush, the body often reacts as if its cold and shivers alot. This also keeps muscles that are going to sore from cooling off to quickly which can cause cramps or discomfort. Water for them to drink is good too here because scening can dehydrate both the top & the bottom equally. Most of all, aftercare is a time of rest, relaxation & bonding

between yourselves.

I hope this months column helps you all in your playtime ahead. I'll talk to you all again next month, same bat time, same bat channel ▽



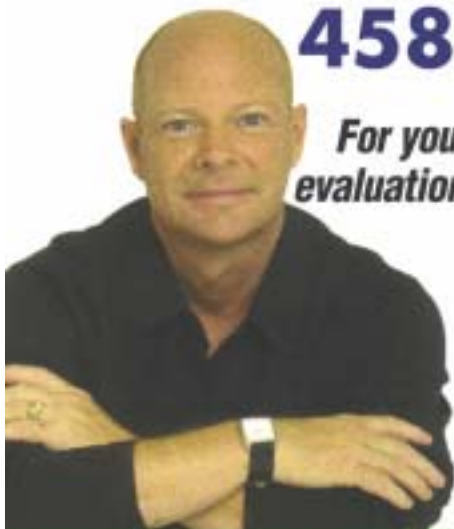
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Edmonton Queer Community Group Listings

Agape

A sex-and-gender differences and schooling focus group in the Faculty of Education, University of Alberta. Please visit our website for meeting details:

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~cied/eps/AgapeVerdana.htm>

Alternative Bears (Alt-Bears) Of Edmonton

A group of hairy Gay or Bisexual guys who get together every Saturday night for late-night swimming (at a local public pool) and snacks afterwards, and the occasional group-coffee or movie event.

<http://altbears.8k.com>

Bisexual Support Group

Meets at 7:30 PM on the last Wednesday of every month at GLCCE. Call 488-3234 for more information.

E-mail: bipride@telus.net

Buck Naked Boys Club of Edmonton

A social men's club for the enjoyment of naturism - being naked at a social, non-sexual monthly meetings. We meet on the second Saturday of each month and our now been getting together for 7 years.

bnbc4@interbaun.com
clubweb.interbaun.com/flicker/BNBC.htm

CAANS

Serves the David Thompson Health Region from Drumheller to Drayton Valley, Nordegg to the Saskatchewan border. We are serving a population of over 287,000. Our Mission: Fostering healthy responses to HIV and related

issues, through support, education and research. Toll free: 1-877-346-8858
www.mycommunityinformation.com/caans

Edmonton Prime Timers

is a chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide, an international social organization for mature gay and bisexual men. We meet the second Sunday of every month (except July and August) at 3:00 p.m. at the

Edmonton Rainbow Business Association

Gay Men and Lesbians and our non-gay friends in business. Network in a positive proud space where being yourself is the norm. Memberships \$25.00/year Contact Bill Faulkner at 422-6207

Gaywire

... radio that recruits. Join co-hosts Kristy Harcourt and Chris Samuel every Thursday

GLCCE

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre
Providing resources, referrals and support about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. #45, 9912-106 Street, Edmonton, AB. (780)488-3234
www.edmc.net/glcce
Open Monday-Friday
Office Hours 1:30-5:30 and Drop-In 7-10pm

HIV Edmonton

New address 105, 10550 - 102 Street Edmonton, AB T5H 2T3
mail@hivedmonton.com (all general email, specific will be forwarded to appropriate staff)
www.hivedmonton.com

those infected and affected by HIV and related conditions and to engage in health promotion and harm reduction with all populations.

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Crossdresser, transsexuals and their supporters. For more information, write to Illusions Social Club Box 356 Main Post Office Edmonton AB T5J 2J6
Phone: 424-2685

Inside/Out

A social and support group for LGBTQ staff, faculty, grad students and postdocs at U of A. We meet monthly during the academic year for a discussion, snacks, and coffee. We also host a speaker series featuring LGBTQ-related research on campus. For more information please contact Marjorie Wonham
mwonham@ualberta.ca or Kris Wells
kwells@ualberta.ca

ISCWR

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose For 27 years, the Court has been here to fundraise for charities and local organizations. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of the Month at the Garage at 8:30 PM. Email the court at wildrosecourt@yahoo.com and visit us online at www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt

Lambda Christian Community Church

Providing a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered Christians and their friends. 7pm Worship Service Sunday 11148-84 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T6G 0V8
(780) 887-8611
lambdachurch@shaw.ca

Living Positive

Living Positive is a coalition of persons with HIV infection providing tangible peer social support. Suite100 10550-102 Street Edmonton, Alberta T5H 2T3
(780) 488-5768
www.telusplanet.net/public/livespos

Lutherans Concerned

A spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing and friendship. We offer individual support, resources and a safe place for our own spiritual questions. Mailing Address (All Chapters): #302, 9505 - 77 Ave, Edmonton, AB, T6C 0M3
E-mail: lcedmonton@lcna.org
Website: <http://www.lcna.org>
Phone:(Western Canada)780-426-0905
Phone:(Eastern Canada) 416-599-7337

Making Waves Swim Club

(MWSC) is open to all who are interested in lane swimming in a Masters club, we provide coaching to all levels of swimmers. Drop in gives you flexibility to match your schedule. We swim at: Bonnie Doon Leisure Centre, 8648-81 Street Edmonton from Sept. to June
makingwaves_edm@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm

Northern Chaps

Northern Chaps, P O Box 74042, Peppertree RPO, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2S7
Northern Chaps is Edmonton's Original leather, latex, fetish and uniform club founded in February 1984 and is

fresh Featured Community Group



Edmonton Vocal Minority

"...together our voice is strong and proud!"

Edmonton Vocal Minority is a mixed-voice chorus established in 1992 dedicated to celebrating the unique culture and history of the LesBiTransGay community. Everyone is welcome to join, regardless of sexual orientation. Under the direction of Paul Roberts, singers are given expert music and voice instruction while enjoying each other's company in a friendly and supportive environment.



The choir rehearses Monday evenings from September to June and presents two main concerts each year. In addition to these concerts, EVM also appears at various community events, stages an annual Christmas party, and occasionally takes the show on the road to perform with other Queer choruses. Check out the web site at www.evmchoir.com for information about how and when to join, or send an e-mail to sing@evmchoir.com

Unitarian Church, 12530 - 110 Avenue. For more information, contact Peter at 426-7019 or by email at: edmontonpt@yahoo.ca

at 6:00 pm for news, and entertainment dedicated to Edmonton's queer communities. The best source for updates to thegay agenda! Only on CJSR FM88

The purpose of the HIV Network of Edmonton Society's, serving Edmonton and its regions, is to educate, provide support to and advocate on behalf of

based in Edmonton, Alberta. Everyone is welcome to join! Northern Chaps is not a sex club. Our mission is to provide our members with a safe environment to learn more about the leather, latex, fetish and uniform lifestyles and to meet others with similar interests. Visit us, in person, the first and third Saturday of every month starting at 10PM at Buddy's Nite Club, 11725B Jasper Ave

Open Door Club of Grant MacEwan College

meetings weekly support, events social, gatherings awareness campaigns and more.
www.odc.mypage.org or e-mail:
odcgm@msn.com

OUTreach

U of A GBLT-Q Group
Box 75 SUB, U of A
Edmonton, AB T6J 4J7

www.ualberta.ca/~outreach
outreach@ualberta.ca

An academic atmosphere for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered and queer friendly youth, students, staff, faculty and community. We meet every tuesday during the school year @ 5pm at Athabasca Hall with coffee every tuesday after (even in summer)

Pride Squad

Edmonton is one of North America's community-based cheer squads for queer folks and their supporters. It is an acrobatic Cheer Team for anyone who is bisexual, gay, or lesbian. Some of the functions are fund-raising and just simply doing some cheer work for in and around the community.
(780) 708-1649
edm_pride_squad@

hotmail.com Web-site:
<http://www.geocities.com/pridesquadedm>

Police Liaison Committee

Promotes understanding between the Edmonton City Police and the GLBT community. (780) 488-3234, (780) 421-2277
fdicker4@compusmart.ab.ca

Rainbow Slo-Pitch

We play on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at Parkallen Field-corner of 111 st. and 68 ave. starting the first wednesday in May thru the middle of September. Come early the first couple of weeks to register. Strictly for FUN only, no ball hogs please-although our skill levels run the gamut. Fees are 30\$/season or 2\$ drop in. Full

fees gets a membership to the Roost{our after ball watering hole}, playing time and a season ending party{including beer}
fixitina@shaw.ca
423-9925

Sunday Evening Discussion Group

A facilitated discussion group for men of all ages. Enjoy the comradery and support of discussion of any subject that effects our queer community. Every Sunday evening at 7 pm at GLCCE #45, 9912-106 st, Edmonton. (780) 488-3234
fdicker4@compusmart.ab.ca

True Spirit North

TS/TG Support Group
Mixed gender group

that provides support and education for trans-identified people. Meets on the last Tuesday of every month from 7:30-9:30 PM at GLCCE (Gay & Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton), Suite 45, 9912-106 St. NW Edmonton, AB
truespiritnorth@shaw.ca

Womonspace

womonspace is a publication of the Womonspace Social and Recreational Society of Edmonton, a non-profit volunteer organization. Our purpose is to inform and entertain our members and other interested lesbians.

Womonspace Social and Recreational Society
(780) 482-1794

Box 128, Main PO
Edmonton, AB
T5J 3J4
www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/

Youth Understanding Youth

Come and join us every Saturday from 7:00-9:00pm at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Edmonton, #45, 9912-106st Edmonton, Alberta. The mission of Youth understanding Youth is to provide a warm and friendly place where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, straight, and questioning youth, who are under the age of 25, can gather together to have fun and learn about themselves and others in a safe, supportive and caring environment.
members.shaw.ca/yuy

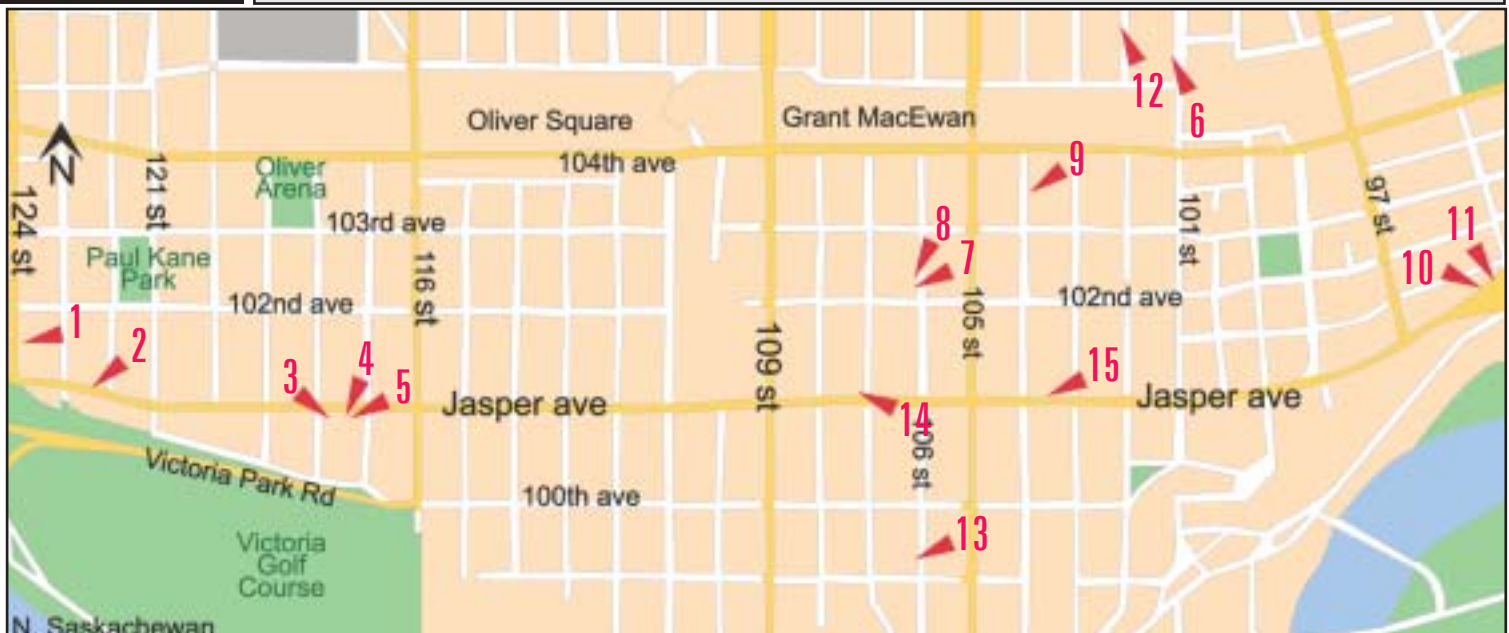
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| 3 Express Video | 6 Prism Bar & Grill | 9 The Roost Private Members Night Club | 12 HIV Edmonton | 15 Front Page magazines |



Coronation Announcements



www.geocities.com/wildrosecourt

- June 3** - The In Town Show - Roost
10345 104 St 9 PM
(protocol prior)
- June 4** - The Out of Town Show -
Boots 10242 106 St. 9 PM
(protocol prior)
- June 5** - Protocol for Coronation (all
performers must attend):
Prism 10524 101 St. Noon to 2
- June 5** - Coronation itself, including
voting for Empress XXIX -
Freemasons Hall 10318 100
Ave, Doors @5, Ball @6, \$25
- June 6** - Victory Brunch - Prism
10524 101 St. Noon \$12
- June 6** - Tuff Drag - in conjunction
with the Roost's Betty Ford
Show, showtime 12:30

Other Announcements



On Sunday, 16 May 2004, thousands of communities around the world will come together in solidarity to light candles and remember those who have been impacted by HIV/AIDS. Local observances are coordinated by organizations, individuals, governments, and faith based communities. Each year, Memorials take place in over 1500 communities in more than 85 countries. The International AIDS Candlelight Memorial has become the largest grassroots AIDS event in the world.

In Edmonton this year, there will be a service of worship at Lambda Christian Community Church (11148 - 84 Ave) Sunday, May 16 at 7 PM and a silent 30 minute vigil at Gazebo Park: Old Strathcona, 83 Avenue and 104 St. at 10 pm

National TRANS AWARENESS WEEK May 3 - 10

Tuesday, May 4 at 7:30 PM there will be an information forum and panel discussion presented by True Spirit North at Garneau United Church Assembly Hall 11148 - 84 Ave.



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Barian Deep aka Barb

has been doing drag in Edmonton for 2 years, starting with the successful campaign for Mr. Gay Edmonton XV. This Nickleback protégé (and seeing Barb in boy-drag, its clear to see why!), is a single parent and an out-and-proud member of our community. Barb was also voted on of the top 3 bartenders in the Edmonton downtown core. ▽

Next Issue:

Pride!



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Our June issue will be filled with everything you need to know to get the most out of this years Pride Celebration!

Rob Browatzke Michael Brown

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Outside Edmonton/Calgary call customer service for your local bill-to-phone number

Pay by Credit Card:

Call customer service at 1.877.882.2005
for details (24 hrs)

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